

# IN THE BEGINNING



Published Quarterly  
Woodson County Historical Society  
Yates Center, Kansas  
**Vol 9 - No. 34**

## IN THE BEGINNING

Vol. 9 - No. 34

April - 1976

*Lester A. Harding - Editor*

### Editor's Notes —

In the January, 1976 issue of In The Beginning we mentioned the fact that we would cut down on pages to meet the minimum amount of postage. Some of our readers commented that they would rather pay more and not cut down on pages. We will use as many pages as we can and stay within the same postal bracket.

\* \* \* \* \*

We still have some of the hard-bound books for sale. We now have four books each with two years issues of In The Beginning in it. The first one has Vol. 1 and 2, 1968-69; the next one has Vol. 3 and 4, 1970-71; the third has Vol. 5 and 6, 1972-73, and the fourth has Vol. 7 and 8, 1974-75. These are well bound and cover the history of the county as we have been writing about. The first of these books sold for \$8.00, but the last ones went up with the cost of binding, and sell for \$9.00. They are a nice colorful addition to any ones library. For those who might wish to trade in their back issues that can be arranged if their copies are in good condition and no writing on them.

\* \* \* \* \*

The cover picture this issue is one of Leslie Stockebrand and a fair-sized bale of prairie hay. The C. A. Stockebrand family at one time baled and barned hundreds of tons of prairie hay. At the time of this picture being taken it seems that Leslie was doing the barning, so the baling crew made a special bale to see if he could handle this kind of a bale. We never learned just what Leslie did with the bale, but it probably never was put in the barn with the rest of the bales. Picture taken about 1916.

This kind of bale handling is now about a thing of the past, as bale loaders are used to pick up the bales and to put them in the barn.

Also the bale handling days for Leslie are a thing of the past as he and wife Hazel, retired and moved into Yates Center.

## IN THE BEGINNING

Published Quarterly By

Woodson County Historical Society

Yates Center, Kansas

\$2.50 per year

65 cents a copy

## WOODSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Organized March, 1965

The Woodson County Historical Museum has a much improved look these days. Most of the cases and articles were removed from the front part (the old stone church building). New panelling was put on the east, north and west sides, with insulation being installed back of the panels. A new wall to wall carpet was laid over the floor. When all cases and contents are moved back in it will certainly look much different. An open house has been suggested for sometime after opening.

\* \* \* \* \*

The January, 1976 meeting of the Historical Society at the Woodson Hotel was held with a 7 o'clock dinner meeting on January 27, with a large group present. The Senior Belles put on a splendid program of singing and their "band" playing several numbers.

\* \* \* \* \*

### IN MEMORIAM

Thomas Brodman

83

Dec. 15, 1975

Mr. Brodman was a life-long resident of Woodson County. He held a Life Membership in the Woodson County Historical Society.

\* \* \* \* \*

Erma Robertson

Jan. 7, 1976

Mrs. Robertson was a native of Woodson County, but had lived away from here for some time until a few years ago returned and made her home here. She held a Life Membership in this Society.

\* \* \* \* \*

The Woodson County Historical Society has purchased the lot joining on the west side of the Historical Museum. The old house on it that at one time served as a parsonage for the Christian Church, is being torn down. The lot will be used mostly for needed parking space.

\* \* \* \* \*

It looks as though the membership for the Woodson County Historical Society would keep up as it has for the past two years. Around 250 paid up members. While some Life Members pass away each year, someone else takes out a Life Membership.

\* \* \* \* \*

Join and Support

Woodson County Historical Society

Life Membership \$25.00

Regular Membership \$2.00 a Year

## SCHNELLVILLE and the SCHNELL FAMILY —

Albert Henry Schnell, the first of the Schnells to come to Kansas and Woodson County was a native of Germany, being born near Fulda, Germany, March 15, 1849. As a boy he came to America with his parents Henry and Theresa Hilbert Schnell, who was also a native of Fulda.

Henry Schnell came to America at the age of 25 years. After three years working he returned to Germany for a short period and returned to the United States, coming to Dubois county, in the southern part of Indiana. After drifting around for a while he started farming and also opened a country store.

At the start of the Civil War, he enlisted in Co. I, Forty-ninth Indiana Volunteers and served three years, being in the battles of Vicksburg and several others.

Returning from the war he farmed extensively for a few years accumulating considerable property. In 1865 Henry Schnell laid out the town of Schnellville on his farm and a few years later built a large saw and flour mill. A post office was established at Schnellville.

Albert Schnell was married to Miss Lucy Sawyer, February 7, 1872. Her parents were James and Rachel Davis Sawyer, of Scott County, Illinois, but formerly of Tennessee. Here in Scott County, Albert Schnell farmed his father-in-laws farm for six years.

In February, 1878, Albert Schnell and family came West and to Woodson County, and purchased 80 acres of land three miles east and 1 1/2 miles south of Yates Center. Later another 160 acres was added.

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Schnell were the parents of four children, Rachel, Mary, John and James.

The Schnell homestead was located in the S 1/2 of NW 1/4 of sec. 20, Twp. 25, R. 15, where Mr. Schnell had a well-kept yard and orchard.

On the 18th day of May, 1900, a group of around 25 farmers and neighbors of A. Watkins gathered at his farm along the Paralell Line, three miles east and four south of Yates Center, for the purpose of a "barn raising," as was customary in those days. These "raisings" were always pleasant social events among the farmers as on this occasion. The fine rains had stopped farming operations, making this one a largely attended event. Mr. and Mrs. Watkins had not only invited their friends and neighbors but had planned a gala day with a big feast at noon. But what a different ending for the day.

The work of raising the different parts of the large barn started fairly early in the morning. The workman had placed two of the largest center "bents" in position and fastened, and were raising the

third one with pike poles when the large oak timber 30 feet high and 18 inches thick at the bottom, slipped off of the foundation stone and fell crashing to the ground. When the huge oak beam slipped the workmen scrambled for safety. All succeeded except three. Albert Schnell started to run but slipped and fell across one of the foundation stones and the heavy beam fell across his shoulders and chest, killing him instantly. Lute Pingrey was a little farther south and must have been struck by one of the cross beams hitting the top of his head, crushing his skull. A young man named Lee Thomas, a migrant farm laborer was struck on the shoulder and was severely bruised.

Will Peters, one of the workmen rode his horse as fast as possible to Yates Center for medical help, and doctors West, Orendorff, and Wharton went out. Pingrey died about four hours after the accident. This tragedy happened about 9 p.m.



Albert H. Schnell was killed on May 18, 1900, at the age of 51 years. His father Henry Schnell died just a week later at the age of 79 years. Funeral services for Albert Schnell was on Sunday morning and for Galutia (Lute) Pingrey on Sunday afternoon. The funeral procession for Mr. Schnell was said to be the largest that ever attended a burial in Yates Center.

As stated Albert and Lucy Schnell were the parents of four children. Rachel married Filmore Withers.

Mary married Edgar Watts.

John married Lucy Phillips. They had one daughter.

James married Helen O'Donnell. After her death he was later married to her neice Helene O'Donnell.

\* \* \* \* \*

John Schnell was self employed in the plumbing and electric business, having a shop on the south side of the square for several years. He was elected to the position of Probate Judge of Woodson County in 1943 and 1945.

\* \* \* \* \*

James Schnell or better known as "Jim" was well known as a plumber and electrician, but had worked as an auto mechanic, fireman on the railroad, and conductor on a street car in Kansas City. He was a partner of Roy Mertz for a time. Roy Mertz had came here and was living in the small house just north of the railroad tracks on North State. Here he built a small shop about 8 X 10 feet on the corner of the lot next to the street. In 1908 Jim Schnell went in as a partner with Mertz. Their jobs were from fixing bicycles to cleaning wells with a steam engine with no steam gauge on it. They even butchered a hog for one dollar. Roy Mertz had come to Yates Center to put the roof on the courthouse. He married Sally Beckett and left here for a while. In 1907, Mertz worked at building the four long legs that support the large Water tower by the railroad.

James or Jim Schnell was a mechanic in the first garage built in Yates Center. This garage was built by George and Charles Lewis where the John Deere Implement business now is. His time working for the public in Yates Center and Woodson County amounted to 60 years. Mr. Schnell was for 53 years in the same shop, until he retired and turned the shop over to Roy Campbell, now known as the Campbell Plumbing and Electric. This was in July, 1969. Roy had worked for Schnell out of this shop for 20 years previous.

The first ad Mr. Schnell had put in a newspaper appeared in the Yates Center News, March 28, 1913, as the following:

"J. C. Schnell — Everything in Plumbing, Steam and gas fitting — North side of square. Telephone No. 14."

J. C. (Jim) Schnell, served on the Yates Center City Council, at the time the first brick paving was put on the streets of Yates Center.





At the time this picture was taken, Mrs. Schnell had celebrated her 85th birthday on January 28, 1939. This picture appeared in the publication, National Society, United States Daughters of 1812, in the State of Kansas, published March 28, 1939.

Mrs. Schnell was one of two REAL DAUGHTERS in the state of Kansas that were living at the time of this publication. Their fathers were veterans of the War of 1812. Mrs. Lucy Schnell's father, James Sawyer was elected as Captain of the 17th Regiment, Illinois Militia, on the 20th day of September, 1825.

It would seem here that James (Jim) Schnell might be in order for an honorable mention as it is possible that a very few if any other person now living in the State of Kansas had a grandfather that fought in the War of 1812. That was 154 years ago. Mr. Schnell has in his possession the certificate that tells of his grandfathers being elected as Captain of that certain regiment. That was 120 years ago.

Mrs. Lucy Schnell was admitted as a member of the Kansas State Society of the United State Daughters of 1812, on February 13, 1938. In a letter written by the Kansas State President, United States Daughters of 1812 at that time states, "We are so proud to have a 'Real Daughter! One whose father served in the War of 1812 and who helped save and preserve this country of ours."

ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO in WOODSON COUNTY —  
COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE  
WOODSON COUNTY, KANSAS  
DEFIANCE, APRIL 10, 1876.

Board of County commissioners met in regular session. Present were S. Michener, chairman, L. G. Porter and T. J. Eagle, commissioners and I. N. Holloway, County Clerk and W. H. Slavens, County Attorney.

W. B. Woodside appeared for E. Roof and asked that the sale be cancelled of the W 1/2, NW 1/4 of SEC. 8, TWP. 26, R. 16 for the year 1873, the same not being taxable for the year 1873. By the Board ordered that the sale be cancelled for said year, and the same be stricken from the sale record.

Augustus Cloud made application to have the taxes refunded on the S 1/2 SW 1/4, 28-24-17, for the year 1874, also on W 1/2 SE 1/4 28-24-17 for the same year, as they were both entered too late for taxation for said year.

By the Board order that a county order be issued to Aug. Cloud for \$3.10 amount of county tax paid and to Hiram McClane for \$2.88 amount paid of county tax on said taxes.

I. S. Jones makes application for Robert Morrow to redeem the W 1/2 NE 1/4 31-26-16, at 10 per cent interest on account of it being illegally sold for the taxes of the year 1872, said over.

A. P. Horton and Carl H. Miller made application to have the road heretofore petitioned for and ordered opened as follows commencing at SE corner of Section 5, Twp. 26, R. 16, thence north on the section line to the NE corner of said section thence East to the SE corner of Section 32, TWP. 25, R. 16. Thence north on the section line until it intersects the road running from Neosho Falls to Belmont, placed on record the same never been recorded.

By the Board ordered that the County Clerk place said road on record. (See Road Record Folio 5, notes and platt) (This road would be a mile north of Rose, three-quarters east, a mile north to the Paralell Line, a quarter east and north about four miles where it intersected the Neosho Falls-Belmont road about 3 1/2 miles east of



Yates Center.)

E. Scott makes application to have the width of the road on the East line of Sect., 1, Twp. 26, R. 16, reduced the same being laid out 66 feet wide so as not to take his hedge which stands 20 feet from the line, along the east line of NE 1/4 of section, and was set out before said road was laid out. Application rejected.

And now comes on the petition of Geo. W. Naylor, etall, asking that a county road in Toronto Township be changed. By the Board ordered that County Clerk return said petition the points on said road not being definitely stated so as to establish the course of said road.

And now comes E. S. Smith with a petition asking that a road be laid out on the County line between Coffey and Woodson County. The petition being a legal one and the proper bond being filed. By the Board of County Commissioners ordered that the County Clerk have the following notice posted and published according to law viz: Notice is hereby given that a petition was presented to the board of County Commissioners of Woodson County, Kansas on the 10th day of April, 1876, asking that a road be laid out as follows. To wit: Commencing at the northwest corner of Section 24, Town 23, Range 16, Woodson County thence east along the County line to the bank of the Neosho River. Thence along the bank of the River to the ford. Thence along the bank of said river in Coffey County to the county line thence east along county line to bank of pond in Woodson County to intersect the road on east line of Section 19, Twp. 23, Range 17, Woodson County. The following named persons were appointed to view and lay out said road. Viz: J. S. Himrod, James Conn, and Daniel Kingry. Said viewers to meet the time and place designated by the commissioners of Coffey County, and proceed to view and lay out said road and give all parties claim damages or otherwise interested in hearing. The County Clerk to notify the County Surveyor of the time and place of meeting of said viewers.

Resignation of B. P. Baker, Treasurer of Belmont Township presented and accepted. Willian Milson is hereby appointed to fill said vacancy.

The petition of H. Massoth for a license for keeping a Lager beer saloon at Defiance was then taken up. Said over.

By the Board ordered that the County Clerk procure from the Land office at Independence a list of all lands entered in Woodson County until March 1, 1876. And the County Treasurer to pay for said abstract, and take credit in County fund. On motion adjourned until 9 o'clock a.m. tomorrow.

The Board of County Commissioners resumed their meeting at 9 o'clock on April 11, 1876, at the courthouse at Defiance, taking up

the following business.

Geo. W. Fender makes application to have the tax refunded for the years 1872, 1873, and 1874 on the SW 1/2 NW 1/4, Sec. 18, Twp. 24, R. 17, the same being taxed in error it being university land, and was sold to G. W. Fender as school land.

And now comes the Road Petition of Frank Butler and others asking for a county road in Center township.

The petition being a legal one and the proper bond on file and the County Clerk is hereby notified to have the following notice posted and published according to law.

Notice is hereby given that a petition was presented to the Board of County Commissioners of Woodson County, Kansas on the 11th day of April, 1876, asking that a county road be laid out as follows. Viz: Commencing eighty rods east of the Southeast corner of Sec. 7, Twp. 25, R. 16. Thence west on or as near the Section line as practiceable, until it intersects the Neosho Falls and Toronto Road, between Sections 13 & 14, Twn. 25, Range 14. The following named persons were then appointed to view the and lay out said road, Viz: I. S. Landis, W. P. Taylor and Wm. Cooper said viewers to meet at the place of beginning of said road on Wednesday the 17th day of May 1876, and give all parties claiming damage or otherwise interested a hearing. The County Clerk to notify the County Surveyor of the time and place of meeting of said viewers.

\* \* \* \* \*

Road petition of Geo. W. Naylor laid over on yesterday was then taken up. The petition being a legal one and a proper bond being filed. It is by the Board ordered, that the County Clerk have the following notice posted and published according to law. Viz: Notice is hereby given that a petition was presented to the Board of County Commissioners of Woodson Co., Kansas in the 11th day of April, 1876 asking that a road be laid out as follows to-wit: Commencing at the Southwest corner of Smith Willhites stone fence in Sec. 23, Twp. 26, R. 13, thence south to the County Road running east from the Greenwood Co. line about one half mile west of the schoolhouse in Dist. No. 9. Thence on the present road to the Carlisle Branch at the campground, thence south to the county line, thence east to intersect the present road as this petition conflicts with. The following named persons are hereby appointed to view and lay out said road Viz: Wm. Dewitt, Thorton Findley and Isaac Darland, said viewers to meet at place of beginning of said road on Friday the 19th day of May, 1876 and give all parties claiming damage or otherwise interested a hearing.

And now appears David Phillips for Defiance Town Company, and

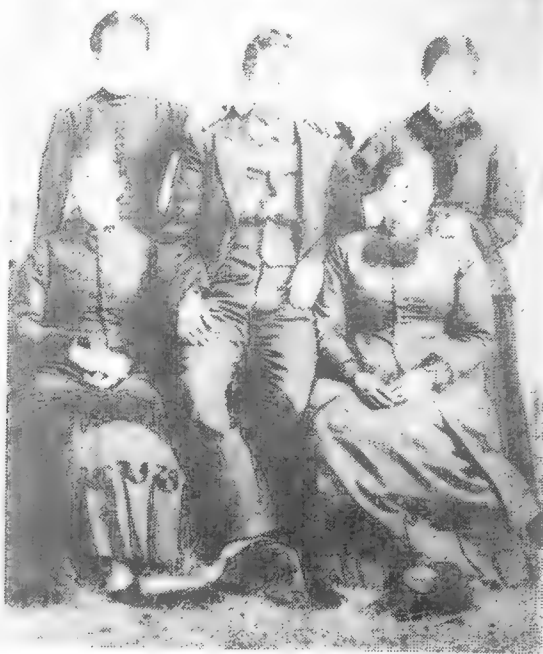
presents the county with a deed of warranty to Lots 5 & 6 in Block 13, in the town of Defiance, as a donation. The Board accepted the deed, and adjourned until April 12.

#### THE EDWARD J. DUMOND FAMILY

Sometime in the year 1875, two young men arrived in Woodson County in the community called the Pleasant Valley and Rose. The people in this community were no strangers to them. The two men were Edward J. Dumond and Cyrus J. Fuller.

Edward J. Dumond was a native of Lowell, Indiana, as were many of the settlers in this valley, including some of his relatives, John Dumond, A. Darst and others. Edward J. was a veteran of the Civil War, being a member of a company of Indiana Volunteers.

Around 1876, Mr. and Mrs. Jackson Dumond came to this Valley. They were the parents of Edward J. They also had four daughters, Miranda, Laura, Lucy and Eunice.



The caption given us with this picture was the man in the picture was Edward J. Dumond, and sisters Miranda, Laura, Lucy and Amy. The position of the sisters in the picture was not given so we do not know which is which. Laura and Lucy were the two youngest. Eunice is not in the picture.

Miranda married Geo. Braton. Lucy married Wm. Woodside. Laura married George Brush. Eunice married Abram Darst.

Sitting in the left side of the picture is Amy (Cutright) Dumond and is the mother of the others in the picture.

Jackson Dumond was rather a "handy" man in the community as he was a fine cabinet maker, also made caskets for funerals, and had a small broom factory at his home.

Edward J. Dumond and Miss Mary E. Smith were married April 11, 1880. They had four daughters, Edna, Ada, Edith and Ursula.

Soon after they were married, George and Laura Brush homesteaded the S. E. 1/4 of Section 12, Twp. 26, R. 15. They decided to go to Colorado. It was this farm that Edward J. Dumond and bride bought and moved on in 1880. When the three oldest girls were small Mr. and Mrs. Dumond also decided to go West. They moved to Hamilton County, Kansas, where they homesteaded a half section of land. They stayed there long enough to prove up on their claim and then came back to their farm in Woodson County. Here their youngest daughter was born. Mr. Dumond passed away when Ursula was four years old. Incidentally, this farm is still in the family name and is operated by a grandson Robert Brown.



Seated in this picture is Mrs. Mary E. (Smith) Dumond. Standing behind her are three of the daughters, Ada, Edith and Ursula.

Edna Dumond married Julius Nelson. She passed away in 1903, evidently before this picture was taken.

Ada married Willard Watkins. Edith married Ernest E. Mentzer and Ursula married Leslie Brown.

We told about the families of some of these in Vol. 8, No. 32 of In The Beginning, telling of the Abe Smith family. However we will tell all of them this issue and add another generation.

Ada and Willard Watkins were the parents of 8 children but only four grew to maturity. They were, Ila, Marjorie (McGuire), Homer and Wilbur.

Edith and Ernest Mentzer were the parents of eleven children namely, George Edward who married Neva. They were the parents of 3 sons, Bruce, Stanley and Scott.

Talmadge (Tye), married Lorene Schooling. They had two girls, Patricia and Janice.

Fleta married Leon VanValkenberg. They had 3 daughters, Ineva, Linda and Lela.

M. Burdette married Marie Stout. Their children are Jerry and Kay. Keith married Edith.

Juanita married Charles Baldwin. They had four daughters, Ann, Amelia, Beth and Charlene.

Norryce married Dorothy.

Lovell never married. He was killed in action during World War II.

Donald married Nadine. They have four children. Beverly, Gary, Alice and Lynn.

Another son Laddie died as a boy.

Ursulla and Leslie Brown were the parents of three children namely, Elsie who married J. W. Keen. They have two sons, Steven and Stanley.

Ula who married Harry Theobald. They have five children, Nancy, Kendall, Cynthia, Vanessa and Jane.

Robert Brown married Kay Jean Martin. They have two children, R. C. and Janene.

Edward J. Dumond and wife Mary are both buried in the Buffalo Cemetery.

\* \* \* \* \*

Woodson County Advocate — December 11, 1891 —

Jennie Meadows Ray and husband, Major Ray are on tour with circus folks stopped at Honolulu, Hawaii. The Queen of Hawaii wanted an audience with the midjets and the Iowa Giants.

The Queen presented Jennie with a handsome fan and a wreath around her neck.

(Jennie Meadows was a midjet born and raised five or six miles to the northeast of Yates Center. She was married to Major Willie H. Ray, by Azon McDale, M. E. Pastor at Yates Center, February 6, 1891. Jennie was 19 years old and her husband was 30. Her parents were Mr. and Mrs. Layton Meadows.

This midget couple traveled with the Ringling Brothers Circus for several years.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### WOODSON COUNTY, KANSAS —

In 1855 the first Territorial legislature, known as the "Bogus" Legislature created 33 counties along the eastern side of the Territory of Kansas. Woodson County was one of these, and was named Woodson in honor of Daniel Woodson who was Secretary of the Territory in 1855-56 and a part of 1857. During this time he was also acting governor.

As a survey had only just started at that time the definition was made by distances only. The starting point being the main channel of the Kansas River at the point where it crosses the Missouri line.

In most of the counties at that time the population was not large enough to justify organization. So the thinly populated counties were attached to those able to maintain organization. Greenwood, Hunter, Dorn, Wilson, Woodson and Godfroy were attached to Allen County.

Woodson County was an unsettled and almost unknown tract of a rectangular shape in the third tier from the Missouri state line and the second county from the Oklahoma line.

The county was pushed to the north about 12 miles. Later through a blunder two miles were taken from the south line making the county as it is now.

On March 29, 1858 at Executive office, Lecompton, Kansas Territory, J. W. Denver, Acting Governor the following was issued.

Commissions were this day issued to the following officers of Woodson County by virtue of their election on 22nd March, 1858; John Woolman, Probate Judge; Charles Cameron, Clerk of Probate Court; A. L. Dunn, Register of Deeds; S. E. Hoffman, County Attorney; L. Fuqua, Sheriff; W. J. Haughawaut, County Treasurer; H. H. Updike, County Surveyor; J. M. Luck, County Coroner; Isaac W. Dow, Chairman Board of Supervisors; William P. Phillips and G. J. Cavin, as supervisors; D. H. Miller, P. B. Sweet, H. J. Gregory, and Asa Jones as Justice of Peace; J. G. Carver, H. McConnell, H. Campbell and H. Grosbeck as constables.

These were the first officers of Woodson County.

On August 16, 1858, the Board of Supervisors with their Clerk Charles Cameron met at Neosho Falls and proceeded to lay out the county in townships. The result was five townships, Neosho Falls, Owl Creek, Liberty, Belmont and Verdigris.

Woodson County at the present time is 24 miles east and west and 21 miles north and south, but at the time of the marking out the first townships it was 23 miles north and south.



## DANIEL WOODSON - COUNTY NAMESAKE —

Daniel Woodson was born in Albemarle county, Virginia, on the 24th of May, 1824. His boyhood days were spent on a plantation in Virginia. He obtained his education in a printing office, and attained so high a rank in this profession that he became one of the best known editors and printers in Virginia.

On June 29, 1854, at the age of 30, he was appointed by President Franklin Pierce, as the Secretary of the Kansas Territory at a salary of \$2,000 per year. At different times during his term as secretary, Mr. Woodson had given to him the powers of the governor. The first brief term was from April 17 to June 23, 1855, during a temporary absence of Governor Reeder. The executive minutes show only two official acts during this period. On the removal of Gov. Reeder from office August 16, Secretary Woodson acted as governor until September 7, when Governor Shannon entered upon his duties. From June 24 to September 11, 1856, Secretary Woodson acted as Governor between times as governor of Shannon and Geary.

On the departure of Governor Geary from the territory March 12, 1857, Mr. Woodson became acting governor until April 16, when he was succeeded by Frederick Stanton, who had been appointed as secretary of the territory.

As a southern man Governor Woodson's sympathies were with the south. He was faithful to the policy of the pro-slavery party in Kansas. In April, 1857, he was appointed receiver of the Delaware (Indian) land office, which at first established at the town of Doniphan, and was later removed to Kickapoo. For 12 years later he was engaged in farming, in Leavenworth county.

In 1870 he moved to Montgomery county, and assisted in establishing a newspaper at the town of Parker. Later he became connected with the Coffeyville Journal. One of Governor Woodson's peculiarities was his aversion to having a photograph taken of himself. He could not be induced to furnish his portrait for the Kansas State Historical Society, (from which most of this article was obtained). Mr. Woodson was in private life genial, kind and courteous.

He died at the home of his son at Claremore, Indian Territory, October 5, 1894.



Early day hunter or trader grave in western part of Woodson County?

As one goes up the Dry Creek Valley road from the south, you pass the ruins of the old Dry Creek school house, although one cannot see it because of the trees and brush that have grown up along the road. About a half mile to the north of the old school house a small stream enters the main Dry Creek from the north and some west. Most of this story deals with the area in Section 26, Twp. 24, R. 13. The west side of this section borders Greenwood County. Dry Creek cuts across most of the east side. A high ridge comes down from the north and ends not far from the center of this section. Just to the south of section center this stream divides, the main part going to the north and the other to the northwest. About a quarter mile up the stream to the northwest a large spring outcrops from a ledge of rocks, into a pond built directly below the spring. The main stream going north gets to be a rather deep ravine as one goes to the north.

It could almost be called a canyon and as it crosses the north section line there is a large sandstone rock set on end about ten feet up the east slope of the ravine.

This rock is about three foot wide at the base and a foot wide at the top and over a foot in thickness. It stands about five feet tall. It would be hard to guess how deep the base is in the ground.

Old timers such as hunters, cowboys and cattlemen have ridden by this rock many times in over a hundred year period and some in much later years and have never mentioned about a grave or an inscription on the east or up hill side of the stone.

Sometime in the spring of 1974, Ronnie Holmquest was riding his horse by this stone as he has a few times before when he thought he could see a faint inscription on it, so he dismounted and tried tracing the letters carved there. The editor of this magazine was told about the stone so we made a trip out there and traced the words on stone with chalk. The following inscription appeared — "In Memory of James Jenne 185 ." The last number was not very plain but was believed to be an 8, making the date read 1858. This would seem rather an early date for these hills but it was this same year that Robert Daly discovered the Dry Creek Cave. (May, 1858). This rock is about a mile and half to the southwest of the cave.

There were people by the name of Jenne that lived over in Greenwood County in an early day, but we have found no more about this old grave and marker. There were hunters and men trading with the Indians of that area during the period of time mentioned, so it is possible that this James Jenne was an early day hunter and trader, but the inscription on the stone indicates that possibly some relative may have been with him.



This crude fireplace with a natural flue is located about a hundred yards up the hill and to the right of the stone in a grove that shows in the upper right hand of the picture of the stone. This indicates a

camp.

(In January, 1930, a story appeared in the Neosho Falls Post written by Mrs. Philip M. Moore, an early day settler in the Neosho Falls area. We thought it very interesting and will publish a part of it. And will try and tell some about the Moore family.)

My father, Watson Gates Anderson, got the western fever so, with his family, he started for Kansas in 1857. We went by train from Richmond, Ind., to St. Louis, Mo., and at that place took a boat up the Missouri River to Independence Landing. Father then bought two yoke of oxen and an ox wagon. Our destination was the Neosho Valley 100 miles distant.

My brother Jerome and I preferred walking. We would run ahead of the slow moving oxen enjoying the scenery.

In many days travel we saw only two men. As they were passing us one asked: "Where are you going?" We replied, "To the Neosho Valley." Turning to his companion he said: "How in thunder are so many people going to get in that valley?"

When we were within ten miles of the Neosho River we began to see signs of life, a foundation here and there with a stake on which a board was nailed on which was a date and name. This would hold 160 acres of land for thirty days. Then a house must be built on it or it was open for settlement.

When nearer the river a number of small log houses could be seen here and there. But now who can realize what the life of the frontier was? It was the life of hardship and deprivation: a family, big or little, in one room. No school, no church, nothing the settlers had been accustomed to.

Towns were springing up along the river - Humboldt, Iola, Neosho Falls, LeRoy. LeRoy at that time had only one general store and one dwelling. The other towns were about the same. In order to reach Neosho Falls we had to cross the Neosho River by canoe.

During the winter of 1857 one itinerant minister passing through our settlement preached one evening at a neighbor's house. Word had been sent out to all the nearby homes and he had a house full of eager listeners. After 1857 these preachers came more frequently. School houses began to appear and these were used for places of worship.

During the fall of 1857 we had no rain and neither rain or snow during the winter of 1859-60. Spring came but no rain. Farmers were turning over the sod. Their corn crop was planted by chopping through the sod with an ax every three feet and dropping in the seed corn, then stepping on the place so as to cover the seed. Spring passed with no rain. The corn came up to wither and die. In

November rain came, not only rain but a severe storm which wrecked some of the buildings.

However our house stood, the walls of which were of planks 14 inches wide placed vertically with the lower ends embedded in the ground.

But the drought did not stop the immigration. Settlers kept pouring into Kansas. The border war in Kansas between the free and slave forces were followed by the Civil War. But Kansas did her part. There was no drafting here. There were hardly enough men left to bury the dead, but prosperity reigned. Immigrants still came. We began to feel proud that Kansas was our home. The Ague was a scourge. It missed no one. We bought quinine measuring it ourselves.

When the Civil War ended in 1865 the ten thousand Indian wards of the United States government, who had lived for two years along the Neosho River, were sent back to their homes in the Indian Territory. We missed them. Many of their evenings were spent in war dances. A leader would make a weird call and start circling around the camp fire. Then the rest would fall in line and keep going until midnight.

Neosho Falls, our nearest town, had the county seat ever since it was located. In 1869 the first bridge — an iron one — to span the Neosho was built at Neosho Falls. This was for some years a toll bridge.

\* \* \* \* \*

While Phillip Moore died at an early age, School District No. 11, kept his name for many years or until it was discontinued, was known as the Philmoore school.

The Moore family came to Woodson County in 1858. They came here from Illinois. The father settled on a claim about two miles south of Neosho Falls. In the fall of 1859 the rain ceased until November, 1860. As no grain was raised he sold his pre-emption right for \$50 and started back east in a wagon pulled by a yoke of oxen.

They expected to go to Atchinson and go by boat down the river to land in Illinois. Arriving in Atchinson he found that the \$50 check was worthless as it had been issued on a bank in Michigan that had closed. Coming back to Woodson County the elder Moore moved in with his son Philip Moore, who in the meantime had married the Miss Anderson and were settled on a claim about two miles to the northwest of Neosho Falls, where the District No. 11, was organized and built.

## KALIDA SCHOOL, DISTRICT No. 16 —

School District No. 16, was organized in 1867. The first school held in that district was held that year, in an abandoned log cabin that had been built about a half mile to the west of the South Branch of Owl Creek, in the southwest corner of the SW 1/4 of section 25, Twp. 25, R. 15. This was about a mile and quarter south of where the town of Kalida was later platted.

The first teacher of this school was a teacher whose name we have been given under two spellings. In one it was Miss Jerusha Failor, and the other was Anna Faler. The Faler was right and we presume Jerusha was. Any way in later years she was married to Dr. J. W. Turner. Just before the start of school there was no door on the log cabin. Abe Woodruff, who became a well known carpenter hung a new door and made the crude benches that the pupils used for seats.

Perhaps when this first school was started it was not an organized district, but was known as a "subscription school." The parents had to pay a certain amount that went for the teachers wages, for the privilege of each pupil attending school. On this first term of school in late fall of 1867, there were 12 pupils enrolled. They were Sarah, Frank and Charley Landis; Jonothan, Thomas, Mary Jane and Jasper Scott; Mary and Willie Linsey; Charles, John, and Mary Woodruff.

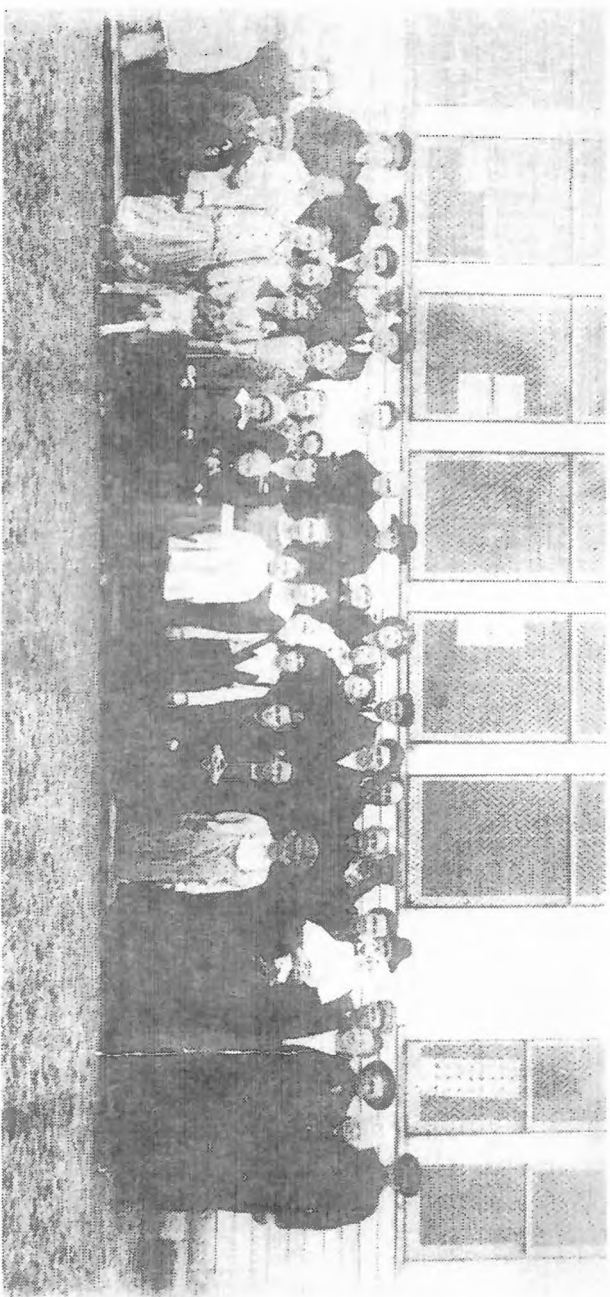
The first day was a very trying one for the teacher and pupils. Miss Faler, the teacher rode a pony to school. Sometime during the day a band of Indians were seen coming towards the school house. The teacher got all of the pupils and also her pony inside of the school, for fear that they would take her pony. But the Indians went on by on the way to their next camping place.

Other pioneer teachers were, Mrs. Winger, Mr. Herbert, Mr. Myers, Peter Bell, James P. Kelley, Lizzie J. Stephenson, Harve S. Johnson. There were 80 pupils attending Dist. No. 16, the term taught by J. P. Kelley.

A new school house was built across the road east from the townsite of Kalida. Later it was moved to the west side of the road where the last term was held in the winter of 1959-60.

The Kalida schoolhouse like a good many other schools was the place for Literary, debates, Sunday School, and other religious services, box and pie socials and programs and possibly other social and civic affairs.





A last day school dinner and program at the Kalida school house in 1919. Children in front — Clifford Abbott, Kathryn Bideau, Teacher; Leonard Whittaker, May Johnson, Alta Havens, Alma Abbott, Helen Liptrap and dog, Carlo, Izora Nantz, Vesta Nantz, Marie Havens, Mattie Whittaker, two little ones in front, Clifford Nantz and sister, Millie, Bernice Nantz, Jennie Johnson, Myrtle Johnson, Golda Johnson, Zelpha Nantz, Dortha Dodd, Francis Johnson, (Continued on next page)

People standing; Mrs. Carl Abbott, John McLaughlin, Mrs. Hulda Parrish, Audie Johnson, Sam Davidson, Mrs. Kate Liptrap, Mrs. Mattie McLaughlin, Mrs. Bob Whittaker, Mrs. Hackney, Mrs. Gwen McConnaughey, Miss Bell Hackney, Mrs. Clara Kannard, Bob Whittaker, Mrs. Bertha Nantz, James Woodruff, Mrs. Miller, Mr. Hackney, Mr. McConnaughey and grandson Dorr, James Davidson, Carl Abbott, Miss Hattie Woodruff, C. E. Liptrap, Mrs. Stoner, William McLaughlin.

\* \* \* \* \*

The teachers of Kalida, School District No. 16, beginning with 1881, when the first record of teachers were kept.

Fred Wilkinson, LeRoy Michenor, Mrs. L. Davidson, A. J. Jones, Algern Ragle, Kate Rhea, W. N. Allen, J. N. Shippey, W. A. Culver, Sadie Normington. A. J. Leonard, Zenas Davidson, Lela Shurtleff, M. A. Rhea, Myrtle Chellis, Jennie Melton, A. J. Huff, Ethel Rose, Emma Reed, Ruth Lander, Erratt Lamb, Esther Johnson, Susie Peake, Harold Gillett, Laura Lind, Faith Trowbridge.

Kathryn Bideau, Iva Pickering, Elizebeth McLaughlin, Gladys Kesterson, Sophia Kesterson, Carmen Whaley, Eveline O'Donnell, Walter Robertson, Millie Thomas, Laura M. Ruth, Esther Watts, (6 terms) Mrs. Arthur Watts, Katherine McLaughlin, (7 terms), Leota Mulsow. Leota taught three terms and was the last teacher as the school was discontinued in the winter of 1959-60.

## PATRONS OF WOODSON COUNTY HISTORICAL QUARTERLY

Brown's Western Auto  
 John V. Glades Agency  
 Woodson Co. Co-op  
 Street Abstract Co. Inc.  
 State Exchange Bank  
 Schornick Oil Co.  
 Self Service Grocery  
 Krueger's Variety  
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert Beine  
 Hi-Way Food Basket  
 Bill Herman  
 Piqua Farmer's Co-op  
 Gualding Oil Co.  
 Donald E. Ward  
 Morton Equipment Co.  
 Swope & Son Implement Co.  
 Campbell Plumbing & Electric  
 Clyde Hill  
 Cantrell Buick-Pontiac  
 Paul C. Laidlaw  
 Rogers Bros. Garage  
 Charles H. Carpenter  
 Newtex Manufacturing Co.  
 J.C. Schnell  
 W. D. Smith & Son Furniture  
 & Undertaking  
 Superior Building Supply, Inc.  
 Glenn Shaw  
 Pringle Ranch - J. W. & J. Richard  
 W. K. Stockebrand  
 Herring Hardware & Supply

Woody's Cafe  
 Kimbell Ranch - Ed Kimbell  
 Edwin H. Bideau Associate  
 Agencies - Chanute  
 Al's Jewelry  
 First National Bank - Toronto  
 Blackjack Cattle Co.  
 Wilma Mark  
 Yates Center Elevator  
 Jasper's Shopping Spot  
 Bill Taylor - Gen. Agent  
 Woodson Co. Farm Bureau  
 Atkin Clinic  
 Daly Western Supply  
 Pyeatte - Jaynes Ins. Agency  
 Dyer Chevrolet  
 Linde Barber Shop  
 House of Fabrics  
 Milton Wrampe  
 Yates Center News  
 E. E. Light  
 Atkin Rexall Pharmacy  
 Yates Center Skelgas Service  
 Campbell Funeral Home  
 Mr. & Mrs. Glen Baker  
 Piqua State Bank  
 Wendall McMurray  
 McGinty-Coffman Dept. Store  
 E. Guy Reid  
 J & W Manufacturing Co.  
 Everybody's Grocery

- Lake street  
- East of paper

Do - Caprock - Los

Mon. Part low  
Oleiver St.